

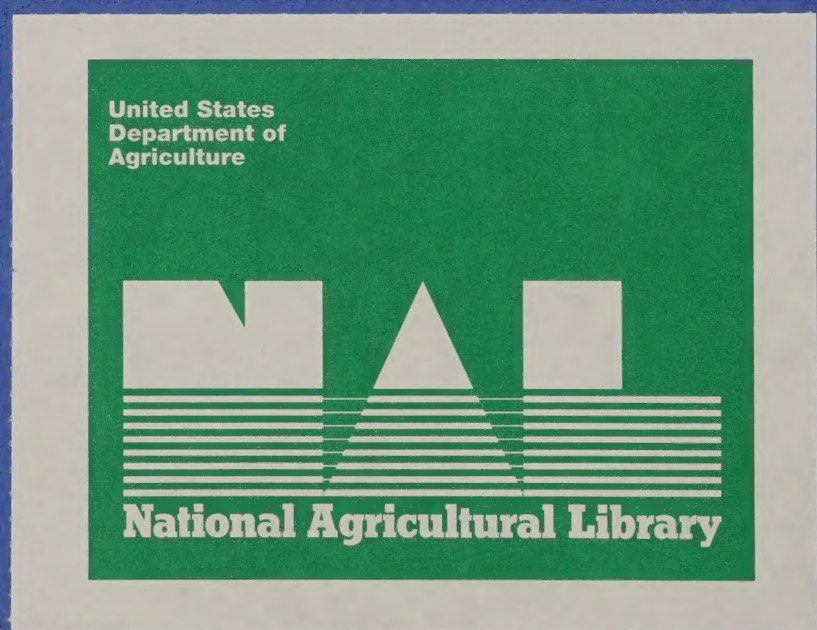
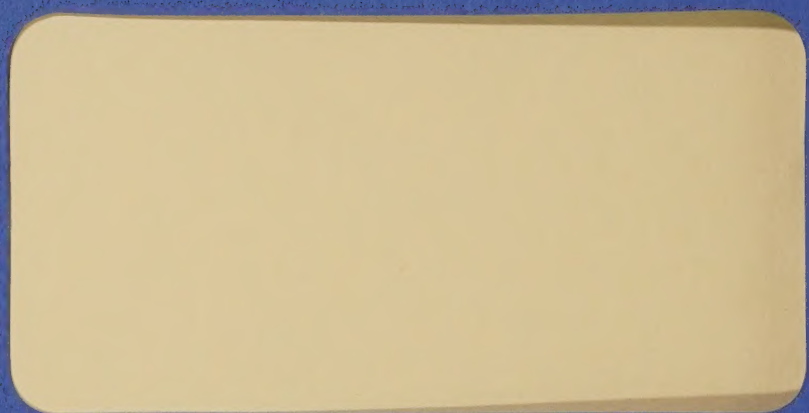
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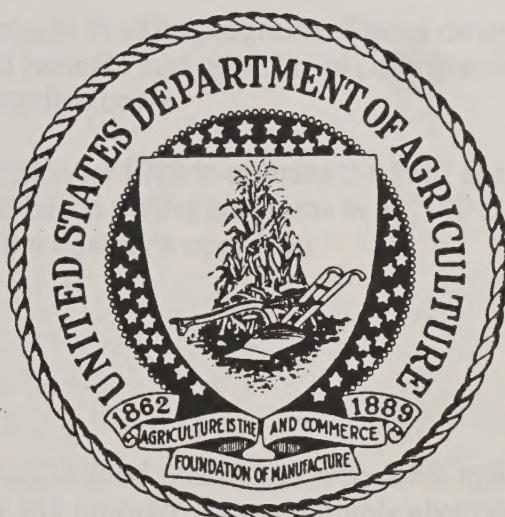
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture





Food Assistance Programs

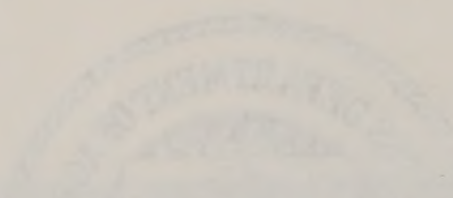
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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Food Program Facts

Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

October 1991

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was established August 8, 1969 to administer the food assistance programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The agency's goals are to provide needy people with access to a more nutritious diet, to improve the eating habits of the nation's children, and to stabilize farm prices through the distribution of surplus foods.

FNS works in partnership with the states in all its programs. States determine most administrative details regarding distribution of food benefits and eligibility of participants, and FNS provides funding to cover most of the states' administrative costs.

Congress has appropriated \$32.7 billion for FNS to operate the food assistance programs in Fiscal Year 1992. The agency spent \$27.6 billion on the programs in FY 1991. By comparison, \$1.1 billion was spent in 1969, the first year of the agency's operation.

FNS administers 13 programs:

Food Stamp Program

The FSP is the cornerstone of the USDA food assistance programs. Initiated as a pilot program in 1961 and made permanent in 1964, the program issues monthly allotments of coupons which are redeemable at retail food stores. Eligibility and allotments are based on household size and income, assets, housing costs, work requirements and other factors. The amount of benefits is based on the Thrifty Food Plan, a hypothetical market basket of foods for a nutritious diet, the cost of which is derived from a survey of actual food prices.

The federal government shares with the states the costs of administrative expenses (including certification of households, issuance of stamps, data processing and anti-fraud activities), and of state employment and training programs.

The program served an average of more than 22 million people each month in 1991. Average monthly benefits were more than \$63 per person in FY 1991, and total cost of the program was more than \$18 billion. For 1992, more than \$22 billion has been appropriated.

Nutrition Assistance Program (Puerto Rico and the Northern Marianas)

The Food Stamp Program in Puerto Rico and the Northern Marianas was replaced in 1982 by a block grant program. The two territories now provide cash and coupons to participants rather than food stamps or food distribution. The grant can also be used to fund up to 50 percent of administrative expenses, or to fund special projects related to food production and distribution.

The amount of the Puerto Rico NAP block grant for 1992 is more than \$1 billion, up from \$974.2 million in 1991. For the Northern Marianas, funding has held steady at \$3.7 million each year.

Food Program Facts / The Food and Nutrition Service

National School Lunch Program

The NSLP provides cash and commodity foods to non-profit food services in elementary and secondary schools and in residential child care centers. Low-income students may qualify to receive their meals free or at a reduced price, and cash payments are made to states on the basis of the number of meals served in the free, reduced-price or paid categories. Entitlement commodities are provided by law at a per-meal rate (currently 14 cents per meal). Additional, or bonus, commodities are provided as available through USDA's agricultural price support or surplus removal programs.

Participation in the program is over 24 million in more than 92,000 schools and residential institutions. About half of those children get their meals free or at a reduced price. The program is available to 98 percent of public school children, and to 90 percent of all school children.

Congress appropriated \$3.4 billion for the school lunch program in 1991, and \$3.6 billion in 1992.

School Breakfast Program

As in the school lunch program, low-income children may qualify to receive school breakfast free or at a reduced price, and states are reimbursed according to the number of meals served in each category. Additional funding may be available for "severe need" schools, where at least 40 percent of meals are served free or at reduced price.

School breakfast participation is around 4.4 million. The program is offered in some 42,000 schools and institutions. It is not as widely offered as the school lunch program, and is more likely to operate in schools where economic need is greater. A series of grants from USDA over the last two years have encouraged schools to start breakfast programs.

The appropriation for the School Breakfast program was \$656 million in 1991, and almost \$722 million was appropriated for 1992.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

This program provides cash and commodity assistance to child and adult care centers and family day care homes. At centers the eligibility and reimbursement criteria for free and reduced-price meals are the same as those for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. At day care homes all meals are served free, but the reimbursements are lower and are limited to two meals and one snack per day. Average daily participation at child care homes and centers as of June 1991 was 1.5 million, participation at adult care centers was 33,000. The program's appropriation is \$1.2 billion for 1992, up from \$1 billion in 1991.

Summer Food Service Program

SFSP is designed to provide food service to children in needy areas -- where at least half the children come from families with incomes below 185 percent of poverty -- during summer vacation. All meals are served free, but are limited to lunch and either breakfast or a snack. The meal service must be sponsored by public or private non-profit school food authorities or residential camps, or by units of state and local government. Participation in 1991 was nearly 2 million. The 1992 appropriation for SFSP is \$196 million, up from \$180 million for 1991.

Food Program Facts / The Food and Nutrition Service

Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC's goal is to improve the health of pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, and infants and children up to 5 years old, by providing supplemental foods, nutrition education, and access to health services. Eligibility is determined by income (185 percent of poverty or below) and nutritional risk as determined by a health professional. Participants receive vouchers that can be redeemed at retail food stores for specified foods that research has shown are frequently lacking in the diet of low-income mothers and children. The program has been shown to be effective in improving the health of pregnant women, new mothers and their infants. A recent study showed that women who participated in the program during their pregnancies had lower Medicaid costs for themselves and their babies than did women who did not participate. Each dollar spent in prenatal WIC benefits was found to be more than offset by Medicaid savings during the first 60 days after birth.

WIC reaches 85 percent of eligible infants and pregnant women in the U.S. Average monthly WIC participation in 1991 was 4.8 million. President Bush in his 1992 budget request called for the largest increase for WIC ever sought by any President. Congress supported his request, appropriating \$2.6 billion for the program for 1992, up from \$2.4 billion in 1991.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

A direct food distribution program with a target population similar to WIC, CSFP often operates in areas where there is no WIC program. If there is a local WIC program, however, recipients may not participate in both WIC and CSFP. As in WIC, food packages are tailored to the nutritional needs of participants. In addition to the regularly authorized commodities, participants may receive additional food from agricultural surpluses as a bonus. States may also serve elderly people through CSFP if they have caseload slots that are not being taken by women, infants and children.

Average monthly CSFP participation in FY 1991 was 289,726. Congress appropriated \$90 million for CSFP in 1992; the 1991 figure was \$81.9 million.

Special Milk Program

Expansion of the school lunch and breakfast programs, which include milk, has led to a substantial reduction in the SMP since its peak in the late 1960's. Participation is now restricted to schools, summer camps and child care institutions that have no other federal child nutrition program, or to kindergarten children who attend half-day sessions and have no access to meal programs provided by the schools. Low-income children may qualify to receive their milk free.

More than 152 million half-pints of milk were served in FY 1991. The program's appropriation is \$23 million for 1992, the same as in 1991.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and the Trust Territories

Provides commodity foods to Native American families who live on or near Indian reservations, and to Pacific Islanders. Also known as the Needy Family Program, this is the oldest FNS program, going back to the Great Depression of the 1930's. It was the main form of food assistance until the Food Stamp Program was expanded in the early 1970's.

Food Program Facts / The Food and Nutrition Service

The program is administered by states and tribal organizations. Participants may choose from month to month whether they will participate in the Food Stamp Program or the food distribution program. Average monthly participation in FY 1991 was nearly 131,000. The 1992 appropriation is \$81.9 million, compared to \$78.2 million in 1991.

Nutrition Program for the Elderly

Provides cash and commodity foods for meals for senior citizens. Food is served in senior citizen centers or delivered by meals-on-wheels programs. Commodity assistance of 56.76 cents per meal is mandated by law, but state agencies may elect to take all or part of their subsidies in cash rather than commodities. The program served an average of 919,746 meals every day in Fiscal Year 1991. Congress appropriated \$151.5 million for 1992; the 1991 appropriation was \$149.9 million.

Commodity Distribution to Charitable Institutions

Commodities are provided to nonprofit, charitable institutions which serve meals to needy persons regularly. These include homes for the elderly, hospitals, soup kitchens, food banks, meals-on-wheels programs, and summer camps and orphanages that do not participate in any federal child nutrition program. More than \$73 million worth of USDA commodities went to charitable institutions in FY 1991, plus another \$32 million earmarked specifically for soup kitchens and food banks.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Formerly known as the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program, TEFAP was initiated by directive from President Reagan in 1981 with the goal of reducing inventories and storage costs of surplus commodities through distribution to needy households. Commodity supplies held in storage have been greatly reduced, and Congress appropriated \$170 million to purchase additional food for TEFAP for 1991. The program's 1992 appropriation is \$165 million. Total distribution under the program in 1991 was more than \$180 million worth of food.

FNS participates in several national advisory councils dealing with its program areas:

National Advisory Council on Women, Infants and Children: The Council was mandated by Public Law 94-105, enacted October 1975. The purpose of the council is to make a continuing study of the operation of the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and related programs such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to determine how the programs may be improved. The council must submit biennially to the President and Congress a written report of the results of its study, with recommendations for administrative and legislative changes as it deems appropriate.

National Advisory Council on Food Distribution: Established by the Commodity Distribution Reform Act of 1987, the council's purpose is to advise the Secretary on the distribution of donated commodities to recipient agencies, and on regulations and policy development on the specifications for commodities. It meets twice a year and provides an annual report to Congress, the House Committee on Education and Labor, the House Committee on Agriculture, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

FNS formerly participated in the **National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition**, which was eliminated by Congress in 1989 under Public Law 101-147.

Note: 1991 figures cited here are based on preliminary calculations.

Food Program Facts

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THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

October 1991

1. What is the Food Stamp Program?

Food coupons, or stamps, are used to supplement the food buying power of eligible low-income households. The program is administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and locally by the State welfare agencies. The purpose of the program is to improve the levels of nutrition among low-income households and to strengthen the agricultural economy through normal channels of trade.

2. Who is eligible to receive food stamps?

The program provides monthly benefits to low-income households to help them purchase a nutritionally adequate diet. To qualify for the program, households must meet eligibility criteria and provide proof of their statements about household circumstances. U.S. citizens and aliens who by law are considered admitted for permanent residency may qualify.

To participate in the Food Stamp Program:

--Most able-bodied adult applicants must meet certain work requirements.

--All households may have \$2,000 worth of countable resources, such as a bank account. Households may have \$3,000 if at least one person is age 60 or older. Certain resources are not counted, such as a home and lot. Special procedures are used to determine the resource value of licensed vehicles.

--All household members must provide a Social Security number or apply for one;

--The gross monthly income of most households must be at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$1,452 a month for a family of four) and their net income must be at or below 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$1,117 a month for a family of four). Households with an elderly or disabled member are subject only to the net income test. Gross income includes all cash payments to the household with the exception of a few specific types identified by law or regulation.

Food Program Facts / The Food Stamp Program

The maximum gross income eligibility standards effective October 1, 1991 to September 30, 1992 are:

GROSS MONTHLY INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS (130% of Poverty Line)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	48 STATES (1)	ALASKA	HAWAII
1	718	899	825
2	962	1,204	1,107
3	1,207	1,510	1,388
4	1,452	1,815	1,670
5	1,697	2,121	1,952
6	1,942	2,426	2,233
7	2,187	2,732	2,515
8	2,431	3,037	2,797

Each +245 +306 +282
additional
member

1) Includes District of Columbia, Guam and Virgin Islands

3. How is net income determined?

Net monthly income is used to determine a household's benefit level. Food stamp net income is figured by adding all of a household's gross income, except that excluded by law, and then subtracting certain deductions:

--An earned-income deduction for working households equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of household members;

--A standard deduction adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. The standard deduction is \$122;

--A dependent care deduction (not to exceed \$160 per month for each dependent) for the expenses involved in caring for children or other dependents while household members work or seek employment;

--An excess shelter expense deduction for those shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceed 50 percent of the household's remaining income after all other deductions are taken. Most households have a shelter deduction cap of \$194 a month. Households with an elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled member are exempted from this limit--they may subtract the full value of all shelter costs greater than 50 percent of their adjusted income.

--A special medical deduction is available to households with an elderly or disabled member. These households may deduct all medical costs exceeding \$35 incurred by the elderly or disabled person. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs are not deductible.

Food Program Facts / The Food Stamp Program

The net monthly income eligibility standards effective October 1, 1991 to September 30, 1992 are:

NET MONTHLY INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS (100% of Poverty line)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	48 STATES (1)	ALASKA	HAWAII
1	552	691	635
2	740	926	851
3	929	1,161	1,068
4	1,117	1,396	1,285
5	1,305	1,631	1,501
6	1,494	1,866	1,718
7	1,682	2,101	1,935
8	1,870	2,336	2,151
Each additional member	+189	+235	+217

1) Includes District of Columbia, Guam and Virgin Islands

4. How many stamps are participants eligible to receive?

Households are issued an allotment of food stamps. The maximum household allotment is based on the Thrifty Food Plan for a family of four persons with a man and woman ages 20-50 and children 6-8 and 9-11. The allotment level is then adjusted for household size and economies of scale, increased by 3 percent, then rounded down. In order to obtain an individual household's allotment, 30 percent of the individual household's net income is subtracted from the maximum allotment for that household's size. The Thrifty Food Plan is a model diet plan required to feed a family of four persons.

The current maximum allotment levels in effect from October 1, 1991-September 30, 1992 are:

MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT LEVELS

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ALLOTMENT LEVEL
1	\$111
2	203
3	292
4	370
5	440
6	528
7	584
8	667
Each additional member	+83

There are separate, higher allotment levels for urban Alaska, rural Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. These separate allotment levels reflect higher food prices in those areas.

Households with no countable income receive the maximum allotment. For households that have countable income, benefits are reduced by 30 percent for each dollar of net income.

Food Program Facts / The Food Stamp Program

5. On average, how much help does the Food Stamp Program provide ?

The average monthly benefit per person was \$59 in Fiscal Year 1990.

Preliminary figures for 1991 show that the average monthly benefit per person is \$63.82.

6. What foods are eligible for purchase with Food Stamps?

Households can use food stamps to buy any food or food product for human consumption, and seeds and plants for use in home gardens to produce food.

Households CANNOT use food stamps to buy: 1) alcoholic beverages and tobacco; 2) hot foods ready to eat and food intended to be heated in the store; 3) lunch counter items or foods to be eaten in the store; 4) vitamins or medicines; 5) pet foods; and 6) any non-food items (except seeds and plants).

Food stamps cannot be exchanged for cash.

7. What are some of the major characteristics of Food Stamp households?

Based on a summer 1988 characteristics study:

-- 50.2 percent of all participants are children.

--8.1 percent of all participants are elderly.

--The average household size is 2.6 persons.

--The average gross monthly income per food stamp household is \$433, or the annual equivalent of \$5,196. The average net income is \$242 a month -- \$2,704 a year.

--Average countable assets per household are \$92, but for households with elderly members the average is \$229.

--About 4.3 percent of participants are employed full time (10.8 percent of non-elderly adult participants); 20.0 percent of households have earned income.

--Over 17.6 percent of non-elderly adult participants are registered for work through the Food Stamp Program; 23.5 percent are covered by the work requirements of other programs such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Unemployment Compensation Program. Most others are disabled or responsible for the care of a child or incapacitated person.

8. Who is required to work?

Physically and mentally fit food stamp recipients 16 to 60 years of age--with certain exceptions--are required to register for work, participate in an employment and training program if assigned, and accept suitable employment if it is offered.

Exceptions to the work requirement are:

--A person age 16 or 17 who is not a head of a household or who is attending school, or enrolled in an employment training program;

--Those who are subject to and complying with the work requirements of Title IV of the Social Security Act;

--A parent or other household member responsible for the care of a child under 6 or someone who is incapacitated;

Food Program Facts / The Food Stamp Program

- A person receiving unemployment compensation or an applicant for unemployment compensation who is complying with the local employment office's work requirements;
- A regular participant in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program;
- Those employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly wages equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours;
- Students in compliance with food stamp eligibility rules which apply to them.

Because of these exceptions, only about 8 percent of all food stamp recipients are registered for work.

9. Does USDA have employment and training programs?

Legislation passed in 1985 required States to implement an employment and training (E&T) program for food stamp work registrants and selected volunteers. The program aims to involve these recipients in work-related activities which will lead to paid employment and a decreased dependency on assistance programs. USDA provides financial support to each State to operate its E&T program. This support is in three forms:

- A 100 percent grant based on the State's relative percentage of the nationwide caseload, the number of work registrants, and on E&T performance by the State;
- A 50 percent match of State funds for additional program costs;
- 50 percent of State reimbursements for transportation and other work, training, or education-related expenses up to a maximum of \$25 per person per month, and for dependent care costs up to a maximum of \$160 per dependent per month.

1991 figures are still incomplete, but in FY 1990 USDA distributed \$75 million in 100 percent funds and \$45 million in 50 percent matching funds. Approximately 1.3 million food stamp recipients participated in E&T in FY 1990.

10. How much error exists in the current program?

A quality control (QC) system monitors the accuracy of the food stamp eligibility and benefit determinations made by the States. States that fail to meet a standard of accuracy in issuing their food stamp benefits are liable for the funds they issue in error. The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 revised the QC liability system. Under the new system, the Secretary publishes an annual national performance measure (a weighted sum of all States' error rates). This national performance measure is used to establish a payment error tolerance level. State agencies that exceed the tolerance level must pay USDA an amount based on the difference between the State's error rate and the tolerance level, multiplied by the state's annual issuance. The error rate is based on issuances to ineligible, overissuances and underissuances.

11. How much has the program cost over the years?

The program began as a pilot project in 1961 and was authorized as a permanent program to operate at State option in 1964. Expansion of the program occurred most dramatically after 1974 when Congress required all States to offer food stamps to low-income households. Program growth has continued since then and participation peaks in periods of high unemployment, inflation and recession.

Food Program Facts / The Food Stamp Program

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM GROWTH ¹⁾

Fiscal Year	Persons* (Mil.)	Coupon Val. (Bil.)	Monthly Avg. per Person	Total Fed. Costs (Bil)
1971	9.4	\$1.5	\$ 13.55	\$ 1.6
1972	11.1	1.8	13.48	1.9
1973	12.2	2.1	14.60	2.2
1974	12.9	2.7	17.61	2.8
1975	17.1	4.4	21.11	4.4
1976	18.5	5.3	23.55	5.1
1977	17.1	5.1	23.81	4.8
1978	16.0	5.1	25.73	4.8
1979	17.7	6.5	30.04	6.2
1980	21.1	8.7	34.23	8.4
1981	22.4	10.6	39.40	10.3
1982	21.7	10.2	39.05	10.1
1983	21.6	11.2	42.98	11.8
1984	20.9	10.7	42.74	11.6
1985	19.9	10.8	44.99	11.7
1986	19.4	10.6	45.49	11.6
1987	19.1	10.5	45.78	11.6
1988	18.6	11.1	49.83	12.4
1989	18.8	11.7	51.87	12.9
1990	19.9	14.1	59.00	15.4
1991 ²	22.4	14.3	63.82	15.3

1) Excludes Puerto Rico

2) 1991 figures as of July

*Average monthly participation

FOOD STAMP TIMELINE

Today's Food Stamp Program stems from the food assistance programs of the Great Depression-- a time when farmers were burdened with foods they could not sell, while thousands stood in bread lines, waiting for something to eat. To help both farmers and consumers, the Federal government began distributing surplus foods to the Nation's hungry citizens.

The 1930's -- By the late 1930's, the Department was using an alternative approach known as the Food Stamp Plan. Under the plan, families exchanged money for stamps of equal value to purchase regular food items. They also received additional stamps to buy designated surplus foods at retail stores. First used in Rochester, NY, the Food Stamp Plan later expanded to 1,471 counties and 88 cities.

1943 -- The Food Stamp Plan ended in 1943 as World War II reduced food surpluses and unemployment. At its peak, however, the program served well over 3 million people a month.

1950 -- Because of the depressed economy in the mid 1950's some areas decided to reestablish systems for distributing surplus foods to needy people, and interest in the Food Stamp Program revived.

Food Program Facts / The Food Stamp Program

1961 -- In 1961, USDA was directed by the President to establish a pilot Food Stamp Program. By August 1964, the pilot program was operating in 43 project areas and reaching over 350,000 people.

1964 -- The Food Stamp Act of 1964 established the Food Stamp Program as a permanent program and authorized expansion to States wishing to take part. During the following years, USDA undertook a campaign to bring some form of food assistance--direct food distribution or food stamps--to every county in the country.

At the same time, public awareness and concern about the food problems of the poor focused national attention on the food assistance programs. This concern culminated in a national commitment to end poverty-related hunger and malnutrition.

1969 -- In 1969, Congress greatly increased appropriations available to the Food Stamp Program. USDA continued to encourage program expansion, and by the end of 1970, only 39 areas were without either food distribution or food stamps.

1971 -- In 1971, Congress established uniform national standards of eligibility and required all States to inform low-income people about the availability of food stamps.

1974 -- In 1974, the Food Stamp Program finally went nationwide. P.L. 93-86 (August 10, 1973) mandated statewide operation of the FSP if any area of the State operated the program. Such States were to implement statewide operation by July 1, 1974.

1977 -- The Food Stamp Act of 1977 eliminated the purchase requirement, lowered net income limits to the poverty line, replaced most itemized deductions with a standard deduction, and tightened program requirements in a number of areas pertaining to students, aliens and fraudulent households.

1985 -- The Food Security Act made households in which all members receive AFDC, SSI, or other Social Security disability payments categorically eligible for the FSP through 1989, improved services to farm self-employed households, uncoupled the child care and shelter deductions and raised the deduction limits, raised household asset limits, improved services to the homeless, and required an Employment and Training Program by April 1, 1987 among a number of other provisions.

1986 -- Services to the homeless were improved through provisions of the Omnibus Drug Enforcement, Education and Control Act (October 27, 1986). These services were further refined through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in July of the following year.

1988 -- The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-435, September 19, 1988) raised maximum program allotments for FY 1989 and subsequent years, continued the categorical eligibility provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, improved services to program applicants, refined the program's Employment and Training Program and quality control system, and permitted Federal funding of State outreach activities among other program refinements.

1990—The Mickey Leland Memorial Domestic Hunger Relief Act (P.L. 101-624, November 28, 1990) reauthorized the Program through 1995, imposed new and increased penalties for fraud and trafficking, provided for the use of electronic benefit transfer as a means of issuing benefits, provided new assistance to the homeless, forgave federal quality control fiscal claims against States from 1983 through 1985, and laid the groundwork for future coordination and simplification with other welfare programs by establishing an advisory committee.

Food Program Facts

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THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

October 1991

1. What is the National School Lunch Program?

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program which provides balanced, low cost or free lunches to about 24 million children each school day. The lunch program is usually administered by the state education agency, which operates the program through agreements with local schools. At the Federal level, the program is administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2. How does the program work?

Schools that choose to take part in the lunch program get cash subsidies and donated commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In return, they must serve lunches which meet the federal minimum meal pattern requirements, and they must offer free or reduced-price lunches to eligible children. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level (\$16,510 for a family of four) are eligible for free meals. Children between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level (\$23,495 for a family of four) are eligible for reduced-price meals. Children from families over 185 percent of poverty pay a regular price for their subsidized meal.

Following are the annual income guidelines for the continental U.S. effective from July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	POVERTY GUIDELINE (100% POVERTY)	FREE MEAL ELIGIBILITY (130% POVERTY)	REDUCED-PRICE ELIGIBILITY (185% POVERTY)
1	6,220	8,606	12,247
2	8,880	11,544	16,428
3	11,140	14,482	20,609
4	13,400	17,420	24,790
5	15,660	20,358	28,971
6	17,920	23,296	33,152
7	20,180	26,234	37,333
8	22,440	29,172	41,514

For each additional family member add:

+2,260

+2,938

+4,181

Food Program Facts / School Lunch Program

3. How many schools take part?

About 92,500 schools take part in the program. Public or nonprofit private schools of high school grade or under and residential child care institutions are eligible to take part. The program is available in 95 percent of all public schools--representing 98 percent of all public school children. About 59 percent of all public school children participate in the lunch program.

4. What are the funding and participation levels for the NSLP?

FISCAL YEAR	FUNDING (BILLIONS)	ADP ¹ (MILLIONS)	% F/RP ²
1980	3.184	26.6	45.1
1981	3.276	25.8	48.6
1982	2.951	22.9	50.2
1983	3.175	23.0	51.7
1984	3.328	23.4	51.0
1985	3.390	23.6	49.1
1986	3.551	23.7	49.1
1987	3.712	23.9	48.6
1988	3.723	24.2	47.4
1989	3.771	24.1	47.2
1990	3.926	24.1	48.2
1991 ³	4.253	24.6	50.3

Funding includes entitlement and bonus commodities.

1/ Average Daily Participation

2 /Free/Reduced Price

3 /Preliminary figures

For Fiscal Year 1992, Congress has appropriated \$3.6 billion for the National School Lunch Program.

5. What is the federal reimbursement to schools for each meal served?

FREE*	REDUCED-PRICE*	PAID*
1.8025	1.4025	0.30

*Each reimbursement figure includes 14.00 cents per meal in donated commodities; the rest in cash. These rates are effective from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992.

6. What types of foods do schools get from USDA?

USDA provides schools in the program with more than 60 different kinds of food, including meats, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables, fruit juices, vegetable shortening, peanut products, vegetable oil, and flour and other grain products. The variety of commodities schools can get from USDA depends on quantities available and market prices.

Food Program Facts / School Lunch Program

7. What additional commodities can schools get from USDA?

Schools are entitled by law to a specified amount of commodity foods, called "entitlement" foods, for each meal they serve. In addition to the per-meal level of commodity assistance, schools can get certain additional price support commodities as needed, if they can be used without waste. These foods are known as "bonus" commodities. This year USDA is offering schools butter, cornmeal and several other types of food through the bonus commodity program.

8. What are the minimum meal pattern requirements for school lunches?

Schools must offer students specific minimum amounts of five food items--meat or meat alternate, bread or bread alternate, milk, and two fruits and/or vegetables--in order to qualify for federal reimbursements. For example, the following minimum amounts for each category meet the meal pattern requirements for all lunches:

FOOD ITEM	AMOUNT
Meat or meat alternate	2 ounces
Vegetable and/or fruit	3/4 cup
Bread or bread alternate	8 servings per week
Milk	8 fluid ounces

9. What's new with school lunch?

One of the main focuses is on serving more nutritious, healthier foods. USDA has been working for several years to reduce the amount of sugar, salt and fat in school lunch. Ground beef provided to the program has less fat, and fruits and vegetables are processed with less sugar and salt. The availability of low-fat products such as fish, ground turkey and part-skim mozzarella cheese has been extended. More whole-grain products have been included. New recipes were provided that emphasized reduction of sugar, salt and fat. Deep frying is discouraged, and more foods are now oven baked. Tropical oils and animal fats have been eliminated.

School lunch history

1932--Some school lunch programs received federal loans and agricultural surpluses. Legislation in 1935 authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase surplus farm commodities and distribute them to the school lunch program. By 1939, 900,000 children in 14,000 schools participated in the program. During the late 1930's, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided labor for cooking and serving lunches.

1946--The National School Lunch Act was enacted, permanently authorizing the lunch program, establishing a basic meal pattern requirement and requiring schools to serve lunches free or at reduced price to children in need.

1949--Commodity assistance for the lunch program authorized to supplement price support and surplus removal programs.

1962--Funds for free and reduced-price lunches first authorized for schools.

1970--Secretary of Agriculture authorized to set uniform national income poverty guidelines for free and reduced-price eligibility.

Food Program Facts / School Lunch Program

1975--Offer versus serve mandated in high schools.

1977--Offer versus serve made a local option in junior highs and middle schools.

1981--P.L. 97-35 excluded high-tuition private schools from the program, extended offer versus serve as a local option for elementary schools, reduced national average payments for lunches, and tightened income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced-price meals.

1987--P.L. 100-71 eliminated the tuition limitation on private schools.

1989--P.L. 101-147 authorized reimbursement for supplements served in after-school-hours care programs operated by schools participating in The Child and Adult Care Food Program as of May 15, 1989; simplified applications process for free and reduced price meals; authorized local schools to certify children for free meals based on direct contact with Food Stamp/AFDC offices; directed The Department to develop a certified system of Federal/State reviews of local schools; and authorized demonstration projects to test alternatives to traditional meal counting and claiming procedures.

Food Program Facts

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THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

October 1991

1. What is the School Breakfast Program?

The School Breakfast Program provides assistance to States to initiate, maintain or expand non-profit breakfast programs in eligible schools and residential child care institutions. In Fiscal Year 1991, the program operated in approximately 46,000 schools and institutions and served a daily average of 4.1 million children. The program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. State education agencies and local school food authorities administer the program at the local level.

2. What schools and institutions are eligible to participate?

Public or nonprofit private elementary, junior high, or high schools are eligible. Also eligible are public or private nonprofit licensed residential child care institutions. Schools and institutions wishing to join the program must agree to serve breakfasts that meet Federal nutrition standards, and to provide free and reduced-price breakfasts to eligible children.

3. Which children get free or reduced-price breakfasts?

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the School Breakfast Program. By law, any child from a family meeting criteria for eligibility, based on family size and income, may receive a free or reduced-price breakfast. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level (\$17,420 for a family of four) are eligible for free meals. Children between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level (\$24,790 for a family of four) are eligible for reduced-price meals. Children from families over 185 percent of poverty pay a regular price for their subsidized meals.

Following are the annual income guidelines for the continental U.S., effective from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	POVERTY GUIDELINE (100% POVERTY)	FREE MEAL ELIGIBILITY (130% POVERTY)	REDUCED-PRICE ELIGIBILITY (185% POVERTY)
1	6,220	8,606	12,247
2	8,880	11,544	16,428
3	11,140	14,482	20,609
4	13,400	17,420	24,790
5	15,660	20,358	28,971
6	17,920	23,296	33,152
7	20,180	26,234	37,333
8	22,440	29,172	41,514

Food Program Facts / School Breakfast Program

For each additional family member add:

+2,260

+2,938

+4,181

4. What is a "severe need" school?

Individual schools within a school food authority are eligible for severe-need funding if 40 percent or more of their lunches were served free or at a reduced price during the second preceding year, and if preparation costs exceed the regular breakfast reimbursement. "Severe need" reimbursements are available only for free and reduced-price breakfasts. Currently, nearly 60 percent of the breakfasts served in participating schools receive the severe-need subsidy.

5. What is the Federal reimbursement?

Under Federal law, schools may not charge students who qualify for free breakfasts. It is literally meant to be "free" to the student. The 1991-92 school year Federal reimbursement rate is 92.75 cents per meal for free breakfasts, 62.75 cents for reduced-price breakfasts, and 18.50 cents for paid breakfasts. For schools in "severe need" the payments are 110.25 cents for free breakfasts, 80.25 cents for reduced-price breakfasts, and 18.50 cents for paid breakfasts. There is no limit placed on the amount a school may charge for breakfasts served to paying students -- those from families with incomes above 185 percent of poverty.

School Breakfast Program -- Funding and Participation
(in millions)

FISCAL YEAR	-----Average Daily Participation-----				PROGRAM COST
	TOTAL	FREE	REDUCED- PRICE	PAID	
1980	3.6	2.79	.252	.557	287.8
1981	3.8	3.05	.250	.509	331.7
1982	3.32	2.80	.162	.364	317.3
1983	3.36	2.87	.148	.338	343.8
1984	3.43	2.91	.150	.366	364.0
1985	3.43	2.88	.159	.400	379.3
1986	3.50	2.93	.161	.407	406.3
1987	3.61	3.01	.171	.430	446.9
1988	3.69	3.03	.180	.471	483.7
1989	3.87	3.15	.201	.514	513.2
1990	4.08	3.30	.220	.553	589.1
1991*	4.43	3.60	.256	.575	683.2

*Preliminary figures

Food Program Facts / School Breakfast Program

History of the School Breakfast Program

1966--The School Breakfast Program was established under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, Public Law 89-642, as a 2-year pilot project. First consideration was for schools in poor areas and areas where children had to travel a long distance to school.

1968--In the 1968 amendments, Public Law 90-302, the program authority was extended through fiscal year 1971.

1971--Public Law 92-32 extended the program through fiscal year 1973, allowed the Secretary of Agriculture to pay 100 percent of the operating costs of a program in cases of severe need, and provided that eligibility for free and reduced-price breakfasts was to be based on the same income eligibility guidelines as used in the school lunch program.

1975--Amendments to the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, Public Law 94-105, made the School Breakfast Program a permanent program.

1978--Amendments, Public Law 95-627, included provisions to encourage expansion of the breakfast program by providing additional financial assistance and food service equipment to local schools initiating breakfast programs.

1981--Under the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, reimbursements were reduced for reduced-price and paid categories in the breakfast program. No changes were made in the reimbursements for free breakfasts. Reimbursement rates were to be adjusted annually rather than semi-annually, and severe need assistance was restricted to schools in which 40 percent or more of school lunches are served free and at reduced price. Private schools with tuitions of \$1,500 or more were not permitted to participate.

1986--The Child Nutrition Amendments of 1986 increased reimbursements by 6 cents (3 cents in cash and 3 cents in bonus commodities) and extended the option of offer versus serve to the program. The legislation also requires a review and revision of breakfast nutritional requirements.

1987--Tuition limit for private schools eliminated.

1988--P.L. 100-435 added an additional 3 cents for each breakfast served, effective July 1, 1989.

1989--P.L. 101-147 mandated State agency outreach efforts to make local school boards aware of the program. Also established a series of grants to State education agencies to help fund start-up costs for school breakfast programs.



Food Program Facts

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THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

October 1991

1. What is the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children?

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC, is a grant program administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The WIC program provides supplemental foods, plus health care referrals and nutrition education at no cost to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and nonbreastfeeding postpartum women, infants and young children up to 5 years of age who are found to be at nutritional risk. Grants are provided to the states, which in turn either distribute food directly or provide vouchers that can be used at authorized vendors. To be eligible, persons must: (1) meet a State residency requirement; (2) meet an income standard or participate in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the Food Stamp Program or Medicaid; and (3) be individually determined to be at nutritional risk by a health professional.

2. Where is WIC available?

The WIC program is available in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Over 5 million participants and 47,000 vendors participate in the program. State health departments and Indian tribal organizations serve as the 86 WIC State agencies responsible for overseeing approximately 1,750 WIC local agencies. The local agencies operate over 8,200 clinic sites.

3. How is "nutritional risk" determined for a WIC participant?

The nutritional risk determination is made by a competent professional authority such as a physician, nutritionist, nurse or other health official, and is based on Federal guidelines. This health screening is performed at no cost to program applicants.

Three major types of nutritional risks are recognized:

--Medically-based risks (designated as "high priority") such as anemia, underweight, maternal age, history of pregnancy complications or poor pregnancy outcomes;

--Diet- based risks such as inadequate dietary patterns determined by a 24-hour dietary recall, food frequency, or a diet history;

--Conditions that predispose persons to medically-based or diet-based risks, such as alcoholism or drug addiction.

Food Program Facts / The WIC Program

4. What is the income eligibility requirement?

The maximum Federal standard is 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (\$24,790 for a family of four according to the guidelines effective July 1, 1991 - June 30, 1992). However, States may set lower standards (between 100 and 185 percent of the Federal guidelines) that correspond to income limits used in their other health care delivery programs. Some States set lower income limits than the national standard for all or part of their WIC populations. Additionally, a person who participates in AFDC, the Food Stamp Program or Medicaid automatically meets the income eligibility requirement.

5. What food benefits do WIC participants receive?

WIC participants receive a monthly food package designed to supplement their diets. The foods provided are high in protein, calcium, iron, and vitamins A and C. These are the nutrients frequently lacking in the diets of the program's target population.

The WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, and peanut butter or dried beans/peas. Special therapeutic formulas are provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

6. What are the six food package categories?

The food package categories are:

- (1) infants from birth through 3 months of age;
- (2) infants from 4 months through 12 months of age;
- (3) women and children with special dietary needs;
- (4) children 1 to 5 years of age;
- (5) pregnant and breastfeeding women; and
- (6) non-breastfeeding postpartum women.

7. How many persons does WIC serve?

AVERAGE MONTHLY WIC PARTICIPATION, 1982-1990

Fiscal Year	Women	Infants	Children	Total
1982	477,563	623,380	1,088,088	2,189,031
1983	541,825	729,932	1,265,206	2,536,963
1984	656,642	825,053	1,563,077	3,044,772
1985	664,812	873,569	1,599,604	3,137,985
1986	711,667	944,582	1,655,421	3,311,670
1987	750,616	1,019,474	1,659,808	3,429,898
1988	815,253	1,094,600	1,682,990	3,592,843
1989	951,819	1,259,596	1,906,955	4,118,371
1990	1,035,028	1,412,451	2,069,391	4,516,869
1991*	1,098,486	1,538,725	2,157,837	4,795,048

*1991 figures as of July

Food Program Facts / The WIC Program

8. To what extent are infants served by WIC?

More than 1.5 million infants participate in the WIC program; almost one out of every three babies born in the U.S. is served by WIC. (See question 9.)

9. What percent of eligible people does WIC reach?

The WIC program reaches about 85 percent of eligible pregnant women and infants. Of all women infants and children fully eligible, the program serves about 55 percent.

10. What are the priority participation categories?

Once a local agency has reached its maximum caseload, vacancies are to be filled in the order of the following priority levels to assure that benefits are received first by individuals at greatest nutritional risk:

- (1) Pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and infants determined to be at nutritional risk by a blood test, height and weight measurements, or other documentation of a nutrition-related medical condition;
- (2) Infants, up to 6 months of age, whose mothers were at nutritional risk during pregnancy;
- (3) Children at nutritional risk as determined by a blood test, height and weight measurements, or other documentation of a nutrition-related medical condition;
- (4) Pregnant or breastfeeding women and infants at nutritional risk because of an inadequate dietary pattern;
- (5) Children at nutritional risk because of an inadequate dietary pattern; and
- (6) Non-breastfeeding, postpartum women at nutritional risk.

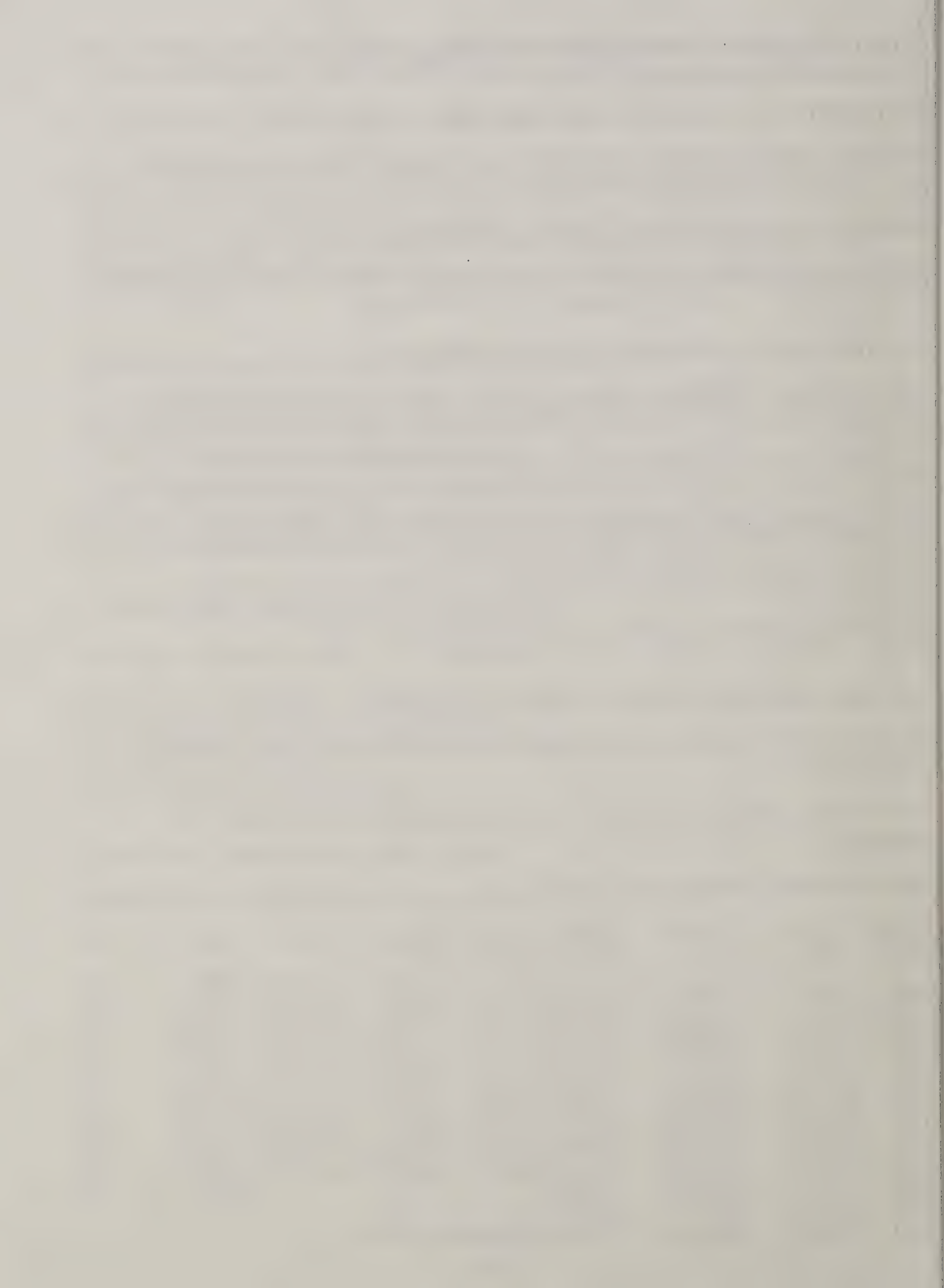
11. What is the funding level for the WIC program?

For Fiscal Year 1992, Congress has appropriated \$2.6 billion for WIC. For FY 1991, \$2.35 billion was appropriated.

12. How has WIC funding and the cost of the WIC food package changed?

WIC PROGRAM COSTS (in millions of dollars)

FISCAL YEAR	FOOD COST	TOTAL COST	AVERAGE FOOD COST PER PERSON (in dollars)
1980	\$584.1	\$727.7	\$25.43
1981	\$708.0	\$871.6	\$27.84
1982	\$757.6	\$948.8	\$28.83
1983	\$901.8	\$1,126.0	\$29.62
1984	\$1,117.3	\$1,388.1	\$30.58
1985	\$1,193.2	\$1,489.3	\$31.69
1986	\$1,264.4	\$1,582.9	\$31.82
1987	\$1,344.7	\$1,679.6	\$32.68
1988	\$1,434.8	\$1,795.4	\$33.28
1989	\$1,489.4	\$1,905.9	\$30.14
1990	\$1,642.0	\$2,123.0	\$30.33
1991	\$1,442.5	\$2,350.0	\$30.08 (1991 figures as of July)



Food Program Facts

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COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)

October 1991

1. What is the Commodity Supplemental Food Program?

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a grant program administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. CSFP provides commodity supplemental foods to low-income infants; children up to age 6; pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women; and persons 60 years of age and over. In addition, State agencies that administer CSFP may establish a residency requirement and/or require applicants to be determined to be at nutritional risk in order to be eligible for program participation.

2. Where does the CSFP operate?

The CSFP operates through state agencies in 18 States and the District of Columbia, at a total of 40 sites. While all the State agencies serve women, infants and children, only 12 are currently authorized to serve elderly. CSFP may operate in the same area as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which serves a similar population. However, individuals may not participate in both programs simultaneously.

The CSFP is authorized to operate in the District of Columbia and in Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota (including Red Lake Indian Reservation in Minnesota), Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, and South Dakota.

3. How does the program operate?

The program is operated by State agencies such as departments of health, social services, education or agriculture. A local agency may be a public or private nonprofit agency that provides service to low-income people. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) donates commodity foods to the appropriate State agency for distribution and provides funds to State and local agencies to cover certain administrative costs. USDA pays for the initial processing and packaging of the food and for transporting it to the first point of destination in the State. State distributing agencies are then responsible for storing the food and distributing it to local agencies. Local agencies determine the eligibility of applicants, distribute the foods, and provide nutrition education. Local agencies are also encouraged to develop health care linkages and must refer participants to other welfare and health care programs such as food stamps, Medicaid and Medicare.

4. What is the nutrition requirement for participation?

This requirement is discretionary with each State. States which require participants to be at nutritional risk base this assessment on a variety of measures, including height and weight measurements and blood tests. Examples of nutritional risk conditions include inappropriate weight for height, and anemia.

Food Program Facts / CSFP

5. What is the income requirement for participation?

To be income-eligible to participate in CSFP, women, infants, and children must be eligible for benefits under existing Federal, State or local food, health or welfare programs for low-income persons. The elderly must have an annual gross income at or below 130 percent of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (\$11,544 for a family of two according to guidelines effective July 1, 1991-June 30, 1992).

6. What foods are provided to participants?

There are six food packages for different categories of participants. The foods offered include infant formula and cereal, nonfat dry and evaporated milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, egg mix, dehydrated potatoes, peanut butter and dry beans/peas, canned meat/poultry/tuna, and canned fruits/vegetables. Special bonus items such as surplus cheese, butter, and honey, are periodically made available. These items are not, however, part of the regular authorized food packages. The food packages do not provide a complete diet, but rather are supplemental foods that are good sources of the nutrients lacking in the diets of the target population.

7. What are the food package categories?

The six food packages are:

- infants through 3 months
- infants 4 months through 12 months
- children 1 to 6 years of age
- pregnant and breastfeeding women
- non-breastfeeding, postpartum women
- elderly persons 60 years of age or older

8. What is the actual cost of the program?*

Fiscal Year 1984 - \$48.0 million

Fiscal Year 1985 - \$48.4

Fiscal Year 1986 - \$47.7

Fiscal Year 1987 - \$55.6

Fiscal Year 1988 - \$61.8

Fiscal Year 1989 - \$72.7

Fiscal Year 1990 - \$83.2

Fiscal Year 1991 - \$60.5 (Thru July 91)

*Includes the value of entitlement, bonus and free commodities issued to women, infants, children and the elderly, and administrative payments made to agencies.

Food Program Facts / CSFP

9. What has the average monthly participation been?*

Fiscal Year 1984 - 150,100
Fiscal Year 1985 - 158,500
Fiscal Year 1986 - 161,300
Fiscal Year 1987 - 192,700
Fiscal Year 1988 - 212,600
Fiscal Year 1989 - 239,607
Fiscal Year 1990 - 273,874
Fiscal Year 1991 - 289,726 (Thru July 91)

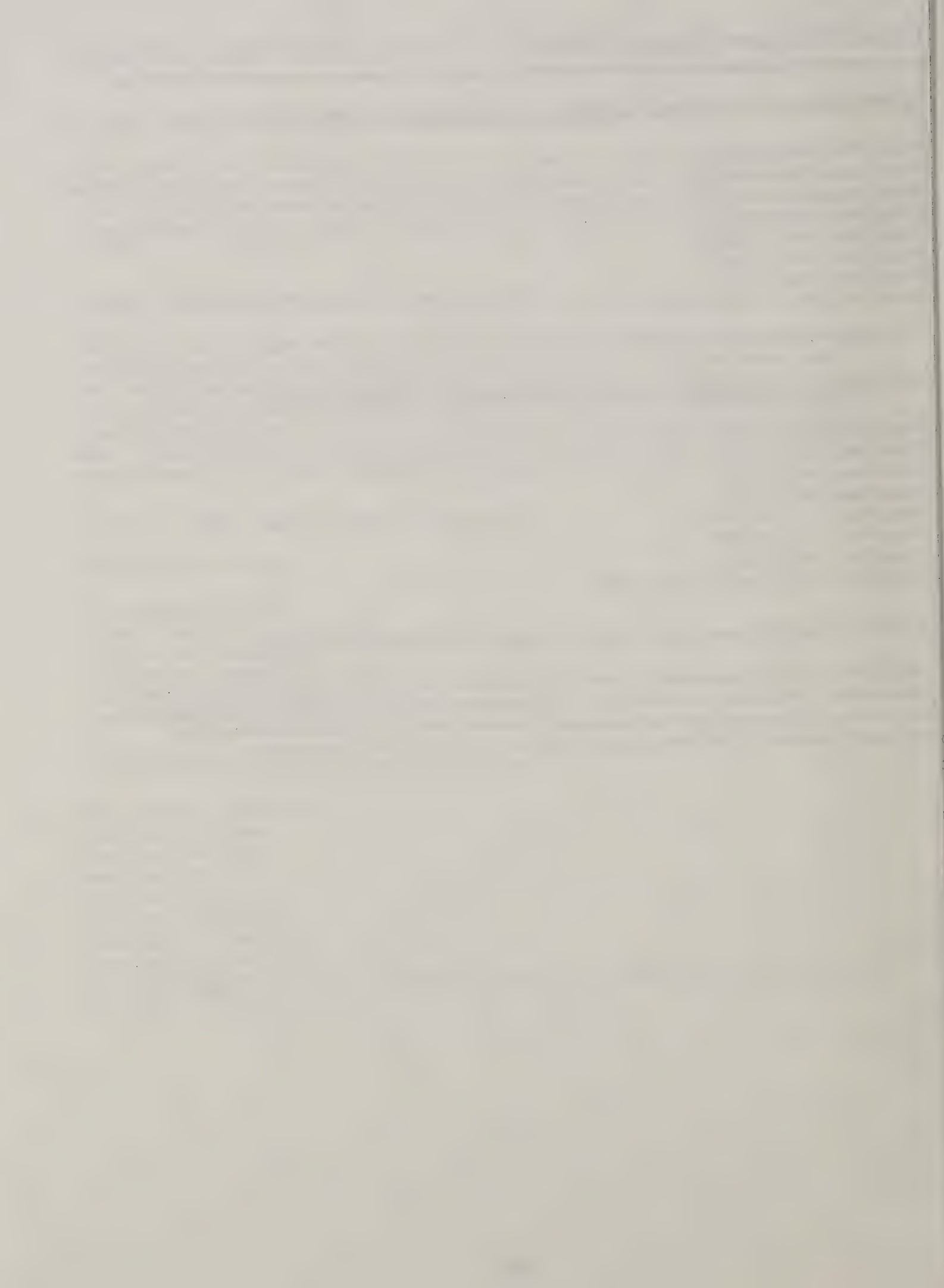
*These figures include the elderly participation.

10. What is the average monthly participation of the elderly?

Fiscal Year 1984 - 12,913
Fiscal Year 1985 - 19,421
Fiscal Year 1986 - 23,253
Fiscal Year 1987 - 56,217
Fiscal Year 1988 - 81,788
Fiscal Year 1989 - 92,331
Fiscal Year 1990 - 106,686
Fiscal Year 1991 - 108,800 (Thru July 91)

11. What funds have been appropriated for Fiscal Year 1992?

The CSFP has been appropriated \$90 million for Fiscal Year 1992. Thge 1991 appropriation was \$81.9 million. The total administrative grant for Fiscal Year 1991 for 20 CSFP State agencies was \$16.3 million. The remaining funds were used for the procurement of entitlement commodities. Bonus and free commodities are provided by USDA at no cost to CSFP State agencies.



Food Program Facts

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The Nutrition Assistance Programs in Puerto Rico and the Northern Marianas

October 1991

1. What is the Nutrition Assistance Program in Puerto Rico?

The program provides block grant funds to Puerto Rico. These funds are then used by the Commonwealth to give cash to the needy to buy food. The grant can also be used to fund up to 50 percent of administrative expenses, or to fund special projects related to food production and distribution.

As required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, the Nutrition Assistance Program replaced the Food Stamp Program in Puerto Rico in 1982.

2. How much money is given to Puerto Rico and how do they use it?

Congress appropriated \$1.013 billion for Puerto Rico for Fiscal year 1992, the same as in 1991. Figures for 1991 are still incomplete, but for Fiscal Year 1990, \$936.75 million in grant funds were provided to Puerto Rico. The program served an average of 1.48 million persons per month in 1990, and total monthly benefit costs averaged \$75,015,750, or about \$50.69 per person. Monthly administrative costs were \$26.58 million, or \$1.50 per person, for a total monthly program cost per person of \$52.19.

3. What is the history of the Nutrition Assistance Program in Puerto Rico?

Prior to 1974 USDA distributed agricultural commodities directly to low-income residents of Puerto Rico through the Family Food Distribution Program.

From 1974 to 1982 Puerto Rico participated in the Food Stamp Program. The program operated similarly there to the program in the mainland with a few exceptions. The shelter and dependent care deductions for Puerto Rico were lower to account for the differences in the cost of living. USDA also used a special version of the Thrifty Food Plan tailored to food preferences and costs in Puerto Rico. The cost of this plan was usually less than the cost of the plan used in the States.

By 1981, the last year that the Food Stamp Program operated in Puerto Rico, 1.8 million people--56 percent of the Commonwealth's population--participated in the program. Food stamp benefits comprised 8 to 10 percent of Puerto Rico's income. Eight percent of the total Federal program expenditures for food stamps were spent in the Commonwealth--more than any of the fifty States.

The legislation to create the Nutrition Assistance Program developed out of recognition that Puerto Rico's food stamp program had grown rapidly and alternative approaches might better serve the Commonwealth. Based on 1980 data, projections for Fiscal Year 1982 estimated that food stamp participation in Puerto Rico would account for 10 percent of total program expenditures and exceed \$1 billion. Puerto Rico had one of the highest food stamp error rates in the program: 14 percent of

Food Program Facts /Puerto Rico and Northern Marianas

all benefits were paid out in error, and the illegal sale of food stamps for cash appeared to be a significant and widespread problem.

Congress was concerned about how the Food Stamp Program had changed the economy of Puerto Rico. Congressional committees heard testimony that economic dependency on food stamps was increasing, while fewer people were working in agriculture, using less land for farming, and producing fewer crops.

Since Puerto Rico has been under the Nutrition Assistance Program, it has used some of its grant funds for special projects to strengthen agricultural production, including an initiative to eradicate cattle ticks.

4. What is the Nutrition Assistance Program in the Northern Mariana Islands?

The program provides annually \$3.7 million in block grant funds to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for food assistance to the needy. These monies consist in part of unexpended funds from prior years. The \$3.7 million grant has been unchanged since the Nutrition Assistance Program began in 1982.

The block grant is based on regulations implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding that is revised every year. Like the Food Stamp Program in the fifty States, the Northern Marianas uses food coupons. However, it prints its own, earmarking 25 percent of them for products produced in the Northern Marianas.

5. What is the history of the Nutrition Assistance Program in the Northern Marianas

There were several key pieces of legislation that led to the establishment of the block grant in the Northern Marianas.

P.L. 94-241, passed in 1976, provided the Northern Marianas with Commonwealth status. As a result, it became eligible for the financial assistance programs that applied to Guam.

In 1978, P.L. 95-348 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to implement a Food Stamp Program in the Northern Marianas. However, this authority expired in 1981 before a program was implemented.

P.L. 96-597 was then approved in 1980, authorizing the Secretary to extend programs administered by USDA to various territories. It also gave the Secretary the authority to waive or modify the requirements of those programs.

The preamble of the final rule implementing the block grant in the Northern Marianas cites both P.L. 94-241 and P.L. 96-597 as the underlying authority.

Food Program Facts

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THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

October 1991

1. What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides Federal funds and USDA-donated foods to nonresidential child care and adult day care facilities to serve nutritious meals and snacks to participants. Federal funds come in the form of reimbursements to participating institutions for meals served under the program. CACFP generally operates in child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, family day care homes, and certain adult day-care centers. The program was formerly known as the Child Care Food Program; the name was changed in 1989 to reflect the addition of an adult care component.

CACFP is the fastest-growing of USDA's food assistance programs. Funding has increased steadily since 1989, with 1.6 million children expected to be served in 1991 at a cost of nearly \$1 billion.

2. What types of institutions provide benefits?

(a) Child Care Centers - Eligible institutions include licensed or approved nonresidential, public, or private nonprofit child-care centers, and for-profit child-care centers that receive compensation for child care under Title XX of the Social Security Act for at least 25 percent of the children enrolled. Head Start centers, settlement houses, and neighborhood centers are also eligible institutions.

Reimbursement rates for meals for child care centers are based on the family income of the participating child and fall into one of the following three categories:

(1) Free - for those children from families with income at or below 130 percent of the poverty level; (2) Reduced price - for children from families with income above 130 percent but at or below 185 percent of the poverty level; (3) Paid - for children from families with income above 185 percent of the poverty level.

(b) Family Day Care Homes - Generally, care is provided in a private home for a small group of children. There are no income criteria for the participating children, except for the children of the provider, who may only participate if household income is less than 185 percent of poverty. Meals are reimbursed at a standardized rate slightly lower than the free rate for child-care centers.

Each family day care home is administered by a sponsoring organization which is responsible for maintaining Federal and State regulations and preparing a monthly consolidated food reimbursement claim to the State administering office for one or more homes it administers. A separate reimbursement payment is made to sponsors for administrative expenses.

(c) Adult Day Care Centers - Day care centers for functionally impaired adults which are public agencies, or private nonprofit organizations, or for-profit centers that receive compensation under Title XIX or XX of the Social Security Act for 25 percent or more of the enrolled adults, may participate and receive cash and commodity assistance under the CACFP. These centers must be licensed or approved by Federal, State, or local authorities to provide services to the chronically impaired, to dis-

Food Program Facts / Child and Adult Care Program

abled adults 18 years of age or older, or to persons 60 years of age or older in a group setting outside their home on less than a 24-hour basis. These agencies must maintain professional management responsibilities for all services.

Reimbursement rates and free and reduced-price eligibility for adult day care centers are the same as those for child care centers.

3. What role does the State play?

The States may set licensing requirements for child and adult care centers and family day care homes. The State department of education, an alternate state agency, or the USDA regional office is the administering agent to the centers and sponsors of homes. As an administering agent, the State reviews and monitors the CACFP within the State and brings about corrective action in instances where FNS regulations are not being followed.

4. What are the meal reimbursement rates?

For the period of July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992, the reimbursements for qualifying meals served are as follows:

Child and Adult Day Care Centers (in cents)*

	Free	Reduced-price	Paid
Breakfast	92.75	62.75	18.50
Lunch/supper	166.25	126.25	16.00
Supplement (snack)	45.75	22.75	4.25

Family Day Care Homes (in cents)

Breakfast 78.50

Lunch/supper 142.25

Supplement (snack) 42.50

*Higher rates apply in Alaska and Hawaii.

*These rates do not include the value of commodities (or cash-in-lieu of commodities) which institutions receive as additional assistance for each lunch or supper served to program participants.

5. What are the per-home administrative rates provided to family day-care home sponsors each month?

Family day-care home sponsors receive reimbursement for their administrative costs as well as for meals. The administrative rates per home per month are*:

1 - 50 homes: \$63

51 - 200 homes: \$48

201 - 1,000 homes: \$38

Each home over 1,000: \$33

* Higher rates apply in Alaska and Hawaii

Food Program Facts / Child and Adult Care Program

6. What is the cost of the Child and Adult Care Food Program?

The actual cost of the Child and Adult Care Food Program is:

FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR VALUE* (millions)

1981	\$318.6
1982	308.6
1983	356.1
1984	407.1
1985	453.5
1986	495.9
1987	547.9
1988	620.0
1989	696.5
1990	803.7
1991	982.4

*Includes donated commodities and cash-in-lieu of donated commodities.

Legislative History of the Child and Adult Care Food Program

May 1968 -- P.L. 90-302 established the Special Food Service Program for Children (SFSPFC), a 3-year pilot program, the year-round component of which was the forerunner of the Child Care Food Program. The program was to be operated year-round by day-care centers in areas in which poor economic conditions existed or in which there were high concentrations of working mothers. Meals were required to meet minimum nutritional standards and to be served at no cost or reduced cost to children unable to pay the full price. The Secretary of Agriculture was authorized to donate surplus and price-supported commodities for program use.

September 1972 -- P.L. 92-433 extended the SFSPFC authority through Fiscal Year 1975.

November 1975 -- P.L. 94-105, established and authorized for 3 years the separate Child Care Food Program (CCFP), and expanded eligibility to include any public or private nonprofit organization providing nonresidential child care, and specifically included family day care and Head Start Programs.

November 1978 -- P.L. 95-627 permanently authorized the CCFP. Major revisions mandated by this law included such changes as availability of advance payments to all participating institutions and start-up payments to family day-care home sponsors; a broader definition of children to include certain handicapped persons over 18; separate administrative rates for sponsors of homes; and expansion of eligible institutions to include programs developed to provide day care outside of school hours.

December 1980 -- P.L. 96-499 allowed for-profit child care sponsors to participate if they received funds for 25 percent or more of the enrollees under Title XX of the Social Security Act.

August 1981 -- P.L. 97-35 required that the age limit of eligible children be reduced to 12 years, except migrants and handicapped; limited meals to two meals and one snack in both child-care centers and day-care homes; established that meals served to children of day-care home providers be reimbursed only if the family is eligible for free or reduced-price meals; and required the Social Security numbers of all adult household members be on all family-size and income applications.

Food Program Facts / Child and Adult Care Program

November 1986 -- P.L. 99-661 allowed child care facilities that are housed in schools to use the facilities, equipment and personnel support for elderly feeding programs; allowed state agencies to refuse to grant to institutions appeal actions as a result of federal audits; and increased the breakfast rate by 3 cents.

November 1987 -- P.L. 100-175, the Older Americans Act (OAA) Amendment of 1987, amended the National School Lunch Act to allow participation in the Child Care Food Program by certain adult day-care centers.

September 1988 -- P.L. 100-435 provided an extra reimbursable meal or snack (three meals and one snack or two meals and two snacks) under the CCFP to eligible children maintained in child care centers for 8 or more hours per day. It also established a single State demonstration project to evaluate the feasibility of reimbursing an additional meal in family day care homes for children in care for 8 or more hours per day.

November 1989 -- P.L. 101-147 changed the name of the program to the "Child and Adult Care Food Program"; provided administrative funding to family day care sponsors to expand the program into low-income or rural areas; required adult day care lunches to provide on average approximately one-third of the daily recommended dietary allowances; allowed State governors to designate a separate State agency to administer the adult day care portion of the program; allowed States the option of accepting Program applications from child and adult care institutions every other year rather than annually; requires households to provide only the social security number of the primary wage earner or person who signs the free or reduced price application. The institution would then be responsible for totaling the income information. In addition, the law extended the Minnesota Demonstration Project to September 30, 1990 and required several demonstration projects aimed at improving program access by low income children.

Congressional report language accompanying the legislation reduced the number of monitoring visits to schools which operate outside-school-hours care centers from six to three.

Food Program Facts

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THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

October 1991

1. What is the Summer Food Service Program?

The Summer Food Service Program funds high-quality meals and snacks for children in needy areas when school is not in session.

2. How does the program operate?

The program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Locally, it is operated by local sponsors, which receive reimbursement from USDA. Sponsorship is limited to public or private nonprofit school food authorities; state, local municipal or county governments; public or private nonprofit colleges and universities that are operating the National Youth Sports Program; public or private nonprofit residential summer camps; and private nonprofit organizations that operate special summer or school vacation programs.

3. Where does the program operate?

The Summer Food Service Program operates in areas with significant concentrations of low-income children. Current law defines such an area as one in which one half or more of the children are from families with income at or below 185 percent of poverty. Homeless feeding sites primarily serving homeless children may participate regardless of location. Residential camps also may participate, but reimbursement is made only for meals served to children eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

4. Who is eligible to participate?

Any child age 18 and under, or any person over 18 who is handicapped and who participates in a program established for the mentally or physically handicapped.

5. How many meals do participants receive each day?

At most feeding sites, participants receive either one meal (a breakfast, a lunch, or a supplement) or two meals (lunch and either a breakfast or a supplement). However, residential camp sponsors and sites which primarily serve migrant children may be approved to serve up to four meals per day.

Food Program Facts / Summer Food Service Program

6. What are the reimbursement rates?

Rates are set each January. A sponsor is reimbursed for actual documented costs up to the following maximum rate:

Food service rates for summer 1991 (in cents)

Breakfast	108.75
Lunch/supper	195.50
Snack/supplement	51.25

7. What administrative funds are paid to sponsors?

In addition to the reimbursement rates above, sponsors receive Federal funds for administrative costs. The administrative rates per meal for summer 1991 are (in cents):

	Basic	Rural/Self-Preparation Sites
Breakfast	8.00	10.00
Lunch/Supper	15.50	18.50
Supplement	4.00	5.00

8. How many children are served in the Summer Food Service Program, and at what cost?

Fiscal Year	Participation 1) (thousands)	Dollar value (millions)
1981	1,726	\$ 105.9
1982	1,397	87.1
1983	1,401	93.4
1984	1,422	96.2
1985	1,462	111.5
1986	1,509	114.7
1987	1,560	129.3
1988	1,577	135.7
1989	1,652	143.3
1990	1,689	164.5
1991 2)	1,992	180.0 (est.)

For 1992, Congress has appropriated \$196.2 million for the Summer Food Service Program.

1) Peak participation

2) Preliminary figures

Food Program Facts / Summer Food Service Program

History of the Summer Food Service Program

May 1968--P.L. 90-302 established the Special Food Service Program for Children (SFSPFC), a 3-year pilot program that was the forerunner of the Summer Food Service Program and the Child Care Food Program.

November 1975--P.L. 94-105 separated the Child Care and Summer Food Service components of the SFSPFC. Eligibility for the Summer Food Service Program was extended to include residential summer camps and institutions conducting a regularly scheduled program for children.

November 1977--P.L. 95-166 addressed abuses which had developed in the program by mandating stricter eligibility rules for sponsors, tightening accounting procedures and imposing penalties for fraud.

November 1978--P.L. 95-627 extended program eligibility to some mentally and physically handicapped persons over age 18.

November 1979--P.L. 96-108 limited the eligibility of some private nonprofit institutions which sponsored large programs and purchased meals from food service management companies.

December 1980--P.L. 96-499 limited summer meal service at most sites to lunch and either breakfast or a snack.

August 1981--P.L. 97-35 limited the types of organizations eligible to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program by excluding private, nonprofit sponsors other than schools and residential camps. The law also changed the area eligibility requirements by requiring that one-half of the children in the area be from families with income at or below 185 percent of poverty.

December 1982--P.L. 97-370 mandated that sponsors submit their final reimbursement claims for meal service to state agencies within 60 days of the claiming month, and that states submit program operations reports to the Department within 90 days of the month covered by the report.

November 1986--P.L. 99-500 and 99-591 allowed sponsors which are school food authorities to use facilities, equipment and personnel for nonprofit nutrition programs for the elderly.

These laws also extended automatic free meal eligibility to children from households receiving food stamps or Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

September 1988--P.L. 100-435 added public and private nonprofit colleges and universities which are participating in the National Youth Sports Program to the category of eligible sponsors. It also created a five state demonstration project in which private nonprofit sponsors are eligible to participate in the programs under certain size restrictions.

November 1989--P.L. 101-147 (1) made eligible to serve as sites meal providers who conduct food service primarily for homeless children; (2) allowed private nonprofit organizations to act as sponsors subject to certain conditions; (3) required States to conduct outreach to private nonprofit organizations in FY 90 and FY 91; (4) required States to conduct training and technical assistance to nonprofit private organizations and (5) made academic year National Youth Sports Programs eligible to participate year-round.



Food Program Facts

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THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)

October 1991

1. What is The Emergency Food Assistance Program?

Originally named the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program, TEFAP gives needy Americans, including low-income and unemployed persons, USDA-donated foods for household use. The foods are free; recipients must meet certain eligibility criteria.

2. When and why did TEFAP start?

USDA foods amounting to almost 6 billion pounds worth over \$6 billion have been distributed to help the needy since the inception of TEFAP in 1981. President Reagan authorized the distribution of surplus commodities to households in December 1981 to help reduce Federal food inventories and storage costs, while assisting the needy. Distribution began in 1982. In March 1983, Congress passed P.L. 98-8, the Jobs Bill, which authorized the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and provided administrative funds to states for distribution and management of the commodities. The Hunger Prevention Act, P.L. 100-435, authorized TEFAP through September 30, 1991 and required the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase an additional \$120 million worth of food for further distribution to needy households and \$32 million in commodities to soup kitchens and food banks. The 1990 Farm Bill reauthorized the program through 1995 and dropped the word "temporary" from the name.

3. How much food do people get on average?

In Fiscal Year 1991, 27.8 pounds of food worth \$14.06 per recipient (total pounds and dollars divided by estimated 15 million participants) were distributed on a monthly basis.

4. How much food has been donated to the needy since TEFAP began?

TEFAP has provided billions of pounds of food since its beginning. Commodities have included flour, cornmeal, butter, honey, cheese, canned meat, peanut butter, raisins, canned vegetables, and rice.

Food Program Facts / TEFAP

Amounts of food distributed year by year:

	POUNDS (mil)	DOLLARS (mil)
1982	122	\$179
1983	653	\$900
1984	850	\$1,031
1985	930	\$972
1986	948	\$846
1987	1,014	\$846
1988	692	\$537
1989	417	\$255
1990	409	\$236
1991*	417	\$211

*Preliminary figures

5. Why was there a decrease in the surplus commodities provided for distribution?

Distribution through TEFAP and other domestic feeding programs has reduced some of the surpluses, specifically of cheese, nonfat dry milk, and rice. Most important, modifications in the price-support programs have reduced the volume of commodities USDA has been required to purchase. Price supports were lowered in order to bring farm production back in line with consumption.

6. Where should TEFAP recipients turn for additional help?

It is estimated that some 90 percent of TEFAP households may be eligible for food stamps. The nutritional needs of low-income individuals can be met through a variety of other USDA programs such as the Food Stamp Program; the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; Child Care and Summer Food Service Programs; the Nutrition Program for the Elderly; commodity donations to charitable institutions; the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. These programs provide some \$20 billion annually for food assistance to low-income households.

7. Who sets eligibility criteria under The Emergency Food Assistance Program?

Each State agency must establish criteria for determining which persons are eligible to participate in the program. An acceptable income standard may include participation in any other existing Federal, State or local food, health or welfare program for which income is considered as a basis for eligibility.

Each State can adjust the income criteria based on the level of need in order to ensure that assistance is provided only to those most in need.

8. How many people participate in TEFAP?

An estimated 15 million people participate each month.

Food Program Facts

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THE SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

October 1991

1. What is the Special Milk Program?

The Special Milk Program (SMP) encourages the consumption of milk by children in public and private nonprofit schools of high school grade or under, and in nonprofit residential or nonresidential child care institutions, provided they do not also participate in other federal meal service programs.

However, schools in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs which operate split-session pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs without access to the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs may participate in the SMP.

2. Which children may participate?

The SMP is available to all children in participating schools and institutions regardless of family income.

3. How does the SMP operate?

Participating schools and institutions are required to operate their milk program on a nonprofit basis. They agree to use the federal reimbursement to reduce the selling price of milk to all children. Schools and institutions have several options in how they operate the SMP:

- They may sell milk to all children at a locally set sales price.
- They may provide milk free to children who meet the income eligibility criteria, while selling it to all other children.
- They may provide milk free to all children, with partial federal reimbursement.

4. What is the federal reimbursement?

The federal reimbursement for each half-pint of milk sold to children in school year 1991-92 is 11 cents. This figure is adjusted annually each July 1. The federal reimbursement for milk served free to eligible participants is the actual cost of the milk.

5. What types of milk can be offered?

Schools or institutions may choose from among pasteurized fluid types of unflavored or flavored whole milk, lowfat milk, skim milk, and cultured buttermilk which meet State and local standards for such milk. All milk must contain vitamins A and D at levels specified by the Food and Drug Administration.

Food Program Facts / The Special Milk Program

6. Who is eligible for free milk?

When local officials elect to offer free milk under the program, any child from a family which meets the Secretary's income guidelines for free meals and milk is eligible. Each child's family must apply annually for free milk eligibility. When a school or institution provides free milk, it must not overtly identify or otherwise discriminate against children receiving free milk.

7. How much milk is served annually in the Special Milk Program?

In FY 1991, the following quantities of milk were served in the SMP: total half-pints, 185 million; free half-pints, 10 million; paid half-pints, 176 million. Total program cost is estimated to be \$20.9 million.

8. How many institutions are participating in the Special Milk Program?

In FY 1991, the total number of institutions participating in the SMP was 11,758. Of that number, 9,512 were nonprofit schools, 1,910 summer camps, and 337 nonresidential child care institutions.

History of the Special Milk Program

1954--P.L. 83-69 established the Special Milk Program when funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) were authorized to be used to increase fluid milk consumption for children in non-profit schools.

1956--Authorization for CCC funds was increased to \$75 million per year (P.L. 84-465). Eligibility expanded to include children in nonprofit child-care centers, settlement houses, summer camps, and similar nonprofit institutions.

1960--P.L. 86-446 authorized funds to reimburse CCC for the SMP and raised its annual funding level to \$95 million.

1966--SMP incorporated into Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-642).

1970--P.L. 91-295 permanently authorized SMP. SMP extended to Guam.

1973--P.L. 93-150 made free milk available to eligible children.

1975--SMP extended to the U.S. territories.

1977--P.L. 95-166 mandated that free milk could be made available at times other than during scheduled federally assisted meal service.

1980--P.L. 96-499 set a 5-cent flat paid rate for milk served in schools with meal service programs.

1981--P.L. 97-35 limited the SMP to schools and institutions not participating in another federally funded food service program. SMP limited to private schools with annual tuition of less than \$1,500.

1986--Restored eligibility for SMP for children enrolled in split-session kindergarten programs if they do not have access to another federally assisted school meal program.

1987--SMP reinstated for all private schools.

Food Program Facts

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THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)

October 1991

1. What is the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)?

This program provides monthly food packages to Indians living on or near a reservation. The program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. State agencies are responsible for all aspects of program operations including storage and distribution, certification, and nutrition education. Households are certified based on income, resources, and nonfinancial criteria. They can be certified as eligible for participation for a period of 1 to 12 months, depending on the stability of the household's circumstances.

2. Do the foods USDA provides accommodate any special health needs?

Yes, the foods do accommodate special health needs Native Americans may have. The foods which are included in the current food packages were recommended by a 1986 Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) task force that explored ways to modify food packages to better meet the distinct health needs and preferences of the Indian community. The goal of the FNS task force was not only to improve selections of donated foods, but to encourage the use of commodities to achieve a healthful diet. These issues are important to the Indian community because poor nutrition is directly related to leading causes of ill health, such as heart disease, diabetes, obesity and alcoholism.

For instance, the levels of fat and sugar in the food package were decreased by adjusting the amounts and choices of the food products. Also, the nutrient and energy contents of the food package have been increased.

In May of 1990, FNS released a new recipe book, Quick & Easy Commodity Recipes for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. The book was developed as part of a 5-year nutrition education plan to help primarily Native American participants of the FDPIR program make more nutritious use of the USDA commodity foods they receive in their monthly food package.

3. How are the foods chosen and included in the food package?

Before an item can be included in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations monthly food package, USDA:

- looks at the overall nutrient content of the package compared to the dietary guidelines;
- looks at the household food preferences and acceptability on behalf of the recipients;
- looks at the overall cost of the package to ensure that it is still within the appropriate limits.

Food Program Facts / FDPIR

4. What are the eligibility requirements?

The household must be low-income, have assets within specified limits, and live on an Indian reservation. Low-income Indian households living near a reservation can also qualify for benefits. FDPIR uses the Food Stamp Program's net monthly income standards, plus the Food Stamp Program's standard deduction, to determine net income. The eligibility standards are adjusted annually based on Food Stamp Program changes.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS (100% of Poverty Line)

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$ 674
2	862
3	1,051
4	1,239
5	1,427
6	1,616
7	1,804
8	1,992

Each additional member + \$189

5. What does the average food package contain?

USDA donates a variety of foods to help participants maintain a healthy diet. These commodities include canned meats; vegetables, fruits and juices; dried beans; peanuts or peanut butter, milk and cheese, pasta, flour or grains, corn syrup or honey; and shortening.

6. What are the average monthly benefits?

Each program recipient receives a monthly food package that weighs 50 to 75 pounds and contains a variety of foods from the four basic food groups. This food package is issued in accordance with the Food Distribution Guide Rate established by FNS. The value of the monthly food package for FY 1992 is \$37.85.

7. How often do State agencies/participants get food and from where?

The commodities in the food package are either obtained through price-support activities and donated to FDPIR or purchased specifically for the program with appropriated funds. State agencies order commodities based on their current caseload and the availability of commodities. Commodities can be ordered by a State agency as a direct order (i.e., food is shipped from the vendor directly to the State agency) or through the Department's central supply (i.e., food is shipped from Inland Center in Kansas City, or from the Exeter, California or Kent, Washington warehouses to the State agency). Depending on the State agency's circumstances, commodities can be delivered by the Department either monthly or quarterly. State agencies are responsible for maintaining sufficient inventory levels at all warehouses.

Food Program Facts / FDPIR

Households or authorized representatives are issued the appropriate household size food package from State agency inventories. Distribution of commodities to households is done by using one of the following methods: (1) manual distribution; (2) over-the-counter distribution; or (3) tailgate distribution from the back of trucks.

8. How many people participate in the program and what does it cost?

The average monthly participation for Fiscal Year 1991 was 128,000. Preliminary figures show the cost of the program for FY 1991 was approximately \$60 million.

Food Program Facts

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NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY (NPE)

October 1991

1. What is the Nutrition Program for the Elderly?

The Nutrition Program for the Elderly is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Under provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) contributes commodities and/or cash to DHHS programs for the elderly.

2. What DHHS programs does NPE support?

The DHHS programs provide elderly persons with nutritionally sound meals through the meals-on-wheels program or in senior citizens centers and similar settings. The meals provide the focal point for activities which have the dual objective of promoting better health and reducing the isolation that may occur in old age.

3. Who is eligible?

Age is the only factor used in determining eligibility. People age 60 or older and their spouses, regardless of age, are eligible for NPE benefits. Indian tribal organizations may select an age below 60 for defining an "older" person for their tribes.

There is no income requirement to receive meals under NPE. Each recipient can contribute as much as he or she wishes toward the cost of the meal, but meals are free to those who cannot make any contribution.

4. What does the program provide?

Under NPE, USDA provides commodity foods and/or cash reimbursements for meals served through DHHS programs. Meals must provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA's) in order to qualify for cash or commodity assistance. USDA provided reimbursement for over 245 million meals at the rate of 56.76 cents per meal in fiscal year 1990. This reimbursement rate will continue through fiscal year 1991.

5. Is NPE a commodity or cash subsidy program?

States can elect to take part or all of their subsidies in cash, rather than commodities. States or Indian tribes which elect 20 percent of their benefits in commodities are eligible to receive such bonus commodities as USDA can make available.

Although originally a program to distribute nutritional USDA -purchased commodities to senior citizen meal sites, the program has evolved primarily into a cash subsidy program. Approximately 94 percent of program resources are distributed to meal providers in cash.

Food Program Facts /Nutrition Program for the Elderly

6. How many meals are served and at what cost?

Preliminary 1991 figures show::

--Average daily meals served: 919,746

--Total number of meals served: 202.3 million

--Cost: \$92.7 million in cash reimbursements plus \$10.8 million in commodity foods.

Food Program Facts

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THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

October 1991

1. What is the Food Distribution Program for Charitable Institutions?

Thousands of charitable institutions throughout the country rely on foods donated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help provide meals to needy people. These institutions range from churches operating community kitchens for the homeless and destitute, to orphanages and homes for the elderly. Other eligible institutions include meals-on-wheels programs, soup kitchens, temporary shelters, correctional institutions offering rehabilitative activities, group homes for the mentally retarded, and hospitals that offer general and long-term health care.

2. Who is eligible?

To participate, charitable institutions must be nonprofit and serve meals on a regular basis. They may be either public institutions or nonprofit private institutions that have Federal tax-exempt status. Interested institutions apply for participation to their State's distributing agency, which determines eligibility based on standards set by USDA.

3. How are the foods distributed?

Throughout the year, USDA buys a variety of foods through programs designed to stabilize farm prices. USDA has this food processed, packaged, and transported to designated locations within each State. State distributing agencies supply the food to eligible institutions and other users of donated foods.

4. What foods are available?

The kinds and quantities of food donated to charitable institutions vary, depending on market conditions. Generally, the foods donated are cereal and grain products such as flour, cornmeal, rice, rolled wheat and oats, bulgur, macaroni, and spaghetti; and peanut and oil products such as roasted peanuts, peanut butter, peanut granules, soybean oil, and soybean shortening.

Food Program Facts / Food Distribution - Charitable

5. What amounts of commodities have been distributed in recent years?

Charitable Institutions

	Pounds (mil)	Dollar Value (mil)
1988	271.8	146.1
1989	239.9	115.3
1990	245.2*	100.5*
1991	268.4*	92.9*

Soup Kitchens and Food Banks

	Pounds (mil)	Dollar Value (mil)
1988	0	0
1989	79.7	39.7
1990	76.5*	38.4*
1991	64.8*	31.6*

*Preliminary

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USDA's COMMODITY DONATION PROGRAMS

October 1991

1. What do USDA's Commodity Donation Programs entail?

Through its commodity programs, the Department of Agriculture has been providing food to people and help to farmers for 56 years. USDA supports farmers by removing foods that are surplus or in need of price support from the market. It makes the same wholesome, nutritious commodities available to schools and other outlets to feed children, the elderly and the needy.

USDA's Food Distribution Program is big business. Preliminary figures for 1991 show USDA distributed 1.4 billion of pounds of food worth over \$700 million to schools, child care centers, summer feeding programs, nutrition programs for the elderly, and charitable institutions.

2. How are USDA foods distributed?

USDA foods are distributed in the following programs:

--**National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.** These programs help schools serve nourishing low-cost meals to children. In addition to cash assistance, participating schools get USDA-donated foods and technical guidance. Cash payments to schools are higher for meals served to children who qualify, on the basis of family size and income, for free or reduced-price meals. The amount of food provided is based on the total meals served.

National School Lunch commodities distributed in recent years:

	Pounds	Dollar Value
1987	1,393,620,400	881,823,575
1988	1,437,873,883	856,040,281
1989	1,295,178,496	817,847,827
1990	1,079,856,410	624,019,973
1991*	1,122,129,802	623,781,435

*Preliminary totals

--**The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).** This program helps child care facilities and institutions serve nutritious meals and snacks to preschool and school-age children. The program operates year-round and provides two meals and a snack to children and functionally impaired adults in non-residential facilities, such as Head Start centers, day care homes, and child care centers. Under CACFP, participating facilities and institutions get cash assistance, USDA-donated foods, and technical guidance. USDA food or cash in lieu thereof is provided on the basis of lunches and suppers served.

Food Program Facts / Commodity Donation Programs

Commodities distributed in the Child Care Food Program in recent years:

	Pounds	Dollar Value (millions)
1987	12,507,693	\$13.5
1988	14,146,295	14.3
1989	9,383,292	6.8
1990	7,625,100	4.5
1991*	8,417,373	4.7

*Preliminary totals

--The Nutrition Program for the Elderly. This program provides food assistance and helps subsidize over 240 million meals per year for older Americans in congregate meal service settings. The program is an adjunct to elderly programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. USDA provides states with a certain level of cash or commodity assistance for each meal served.

Commodities distributed in the Nutrition Program for the Elderly in recent years:

	Pounds	Dollar Value (millions)
1987	19,478,920	14.2
1988	20,781,692	13.3
1989	11,671,501	8.3
1990	10,351,421	6.5
1991*	10,017,415	5.9

*Preliminary totals

--Charitable Institutions. Thousands of charitable institutions throughout the country use USDA-donated foods in meals for needy children and adults. These institutions include orphanages, hospitals offering general and long-term health care, and soup kitchens. To be eligible, institutions must be nonprofit and serve meals on a regular basis. They may be either public institutions or nonprofit private institutions that have Federal tax-exempt status.

Commodities distributed to charitable institutions in recent years:

	Pounds	Dollar Value (millions)
1987	273,920,093	158.1
1988	263,586,362	153.8
1989	239,959,255	115.3
1990	245,237,418	100.5
1991*	268,409,374	92.9

*Preliminary totals

--The Emergency Food Assistance Program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program; and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Commodity foods are also distributed through these programs. Information on these or any of the programs mentioned in this fact sheet is available from the Public Information Staff, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

3. What foods do the programs offer?

Schools, child and adult care institutions, and sites participating in the Nutrition Program for the Elderly can choose from food items that have increased in number and variety. Today there are over 80 different foods to choose from -- everything from apples to tuna fish. The types of commodities donated to charitable institutions vary depending on market conditions, but generally include cereal and grains products, and peanut and oil products.

Food Program Facts / Commodity Donation Programs

4. What's new with USDA foods?

Keeping pace with the changing tastes of consumers and with technological innovations, USDA continues to keep high-quality food on the table in school lunch rooms and charitable institutions. School lunch is a major industry, ranking in size and sophistication with the leading fast food chains. The National School Lunch Program feeds approximately 24 million children each school day.

USDA is always improving the foods it supplies. Among recent changes:

- Making nutritional improvements such as packing fruits in fruit juices and light syrup, reducing salt levels in canned meat and fat levels in ground beef, and lowering sodium and sugar levels of USDA-purchased foods.

- Offering new products to increase the diversity and quality of meals served. For example, canned boned chicken was replaced by chicken patties and has now given way to chicken nuggets. Canned tuna and salmon have also been introduced into programs.

- Responding to product changes and expanding the variety of foods offered. USDA now provides both chunky and smooth peanut butter, bleached and unbleached flour, and ground beef in several different forms.

- Working to give Food Distribution Agencies timely information on availability, packaging, product specifications, storage, and handling.

History of the Food Distribution Programs

The Food Distribution Program had its origins in the Depression of the 1930's when the Federal government acted to fill two critical needs: Many Americans were unemployed, unable to buy food, and going hungry; and at the same time farmers helplessly watched crops rot in the fields, and destroyed animals because there were no markets for them.

In 1935, Congress acted to address these problems. It authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase unsold crops and put them to good use by channeling them through state and local agencies to help feed millions of hungry Americans. Thus, the Food Distribution Program was created.

Recipients of donated foods in the 1930's included schools, summer camps for children, charitable institutions, and needy families. In the 1940's, the National School Lunch Act was passed (June 4, 1946), creating the biggest single outlet for USDA-donated foods.

The legislation of the 1930's and 40's that gave USDA the authority to prop up sagging farm prices was specifically focused on restoring prosperity to the agricultural sector. With the passage of the National School Lunch Act, food distribution took on the additional purpose of promoting healthful diets for children and needy Americans.

The need to provide service to schools resulted in a far greater array of commodities than before. In the beginning of the program, the types of food donated were fewer. They were likely to arrive at their destination in bulky cuts and unwieldy containers. Recipients usually had to scramble to find a place to store the food and plan their menus around it.

Food Program Facts / Commodity Donation Programs

As schools became a major outlet for commodities, their needs influenced the form and timing of the food received. Today, a wide variety of foods in different forms -- from frozen to prepackaged to processed -- are available to schools and the many other outlets benefiting from the consumer-oriented food donations program of the 1980's and 1990's.

USDA is always improving the food it supplies. Among recent changes:

- Making nutritious food more appealing to children by offering a wider variety of choices.
- Offering new products to increase the diversity and quality of meals served. For example, canned baked beans was replaced by chunky beans and tomato sauce also became available in chunky form.

- Responding to market changes and increasing the variety of foods offered. USDA now provides both chunky and smooth peanut butter, sweetened and unsweetened fruit, and ground beef in several different forms.

- Working to give Food Distribution Agencies better information on inventory, packaging, and handling specifications.

USDA also tries to get the most nutritious products available. For example, it encourages the use of whole grain flour in bread and whole milk in milk products.

The Food Distribution Program is a major source of food for needy Americans. It was established in 1955 to help the government reach out to all who need it. At the time it was established, the government was facing a shortage of food and going hungry, and at the same time it was facing a shortage of money to buy food.

In 1955, Congress acted to address these problems. It authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase surplus crops and put them to good use by channeling them to needy Americans. The Food Distribution Program was established to help feed millions of hungry Americans. The Food Distribution Program was established to help feed millions of hungry Americans.

Recipients of donated foods in the 1950s included schools, summer camps for children, churches, and other community groups. In the 1960s, the program expanded to include food banks and other community organizations.


The legislation in the 1960s and 1970s expanded the program to include food banks and other community organizations. The program was expanded to include food banks and other community organizations.

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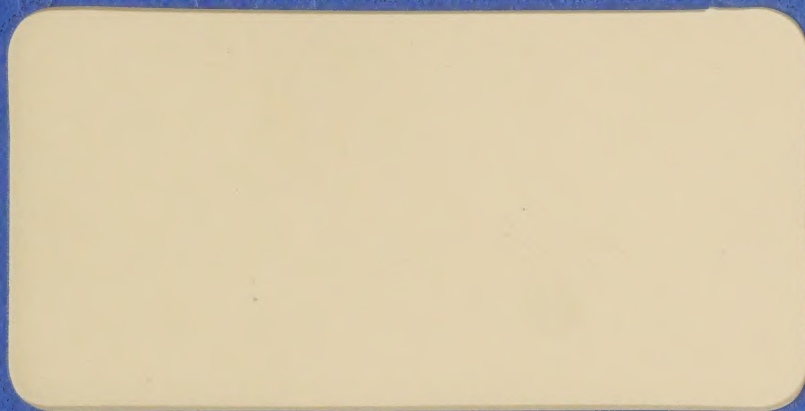
The legislation in the 1990s expanded the program to include food banks and other community organizations. The program was expanded to include food banks and other community organizations.

The legislation in the 2000s expanded the program to include food banks and other community organizations. The program was expanded to include food banks and other community organizations.

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